PATENT APPLICATION

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of

Bernard Fay et al.

Serial No.: 09/881,026

Group Art Unit: Not Known

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Examiner: Not Known

For: AUTOMATED OVERLAY METROLOGY SYSTEM

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231

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TC 1700

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

sir:

Prior to an official action on the merits of the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows:

In the specification:

Please substitute the following paragraphs for the paragraphs of the application as originally filed at the locations respectively indicated. A marked-up copy of these requested changes is provided as an appendix to this preliminary amendment.

Page 14, line 15+:

A simulation of the FFT amplitude variation of spectral reflectance data from the pattern of Figure 2A is shown in Figure 3 and a simulation of FFT amplitude variation of spectral reflectance data from the pattern of Figure 2B is shown in Figure 4. It is assumed for purposes of this discussion that the differently shaded portions 22, 24 of Figure 2A (and 2B) have different reflectivity and that the marks include at least one

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